



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

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COMMISSIONER ACCEPTS KNOX COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN'S RESIGNATION

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Education Commissioner Stephen Pruitt today received and immediately accepted the resignation of Dexter Smith, chairman of the Knox County Board of Education.

“The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) has an open investigation into numerous allegations regarding the Knox County Public Schools. As part of that investigation, Mr. Smith was subpoenaed and this morning met with KDE investigators in Knox County. Following that meeting I received and accepted Mr. Smith’s resignation,” Pruitt said.

Pursuant to [KRS 160.190](#), the Kentucky Commissioner of Education now will begin the process of appointing a new member to the Knox County Board of Education.

Under the law, the commissioner has up to 90 days to fill a vacancy. The member must meet all the eligibility requirements as established by [KRS 160.180](#). The local board of education may make nominations and any person may nominate himself or herself or another for the office.

KDE’s investigation in Knox County will continue.

“Our focus continues to be the students of Knox County Public Schools, and ensuring their educational needs are met and supported,” Pruitt said.

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